

14 May 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. Senator Morse made the following comment from the floor on May 12, 1958 according to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of May 13, 1958:

"I think we need to learn from the State Department why, apparently, our intelligence was not better, because this morning we read in the newspapers that one of our Secret Service officials forewarned that possibly there would be a very serious demonstration in Venezuela. If there was any basis for advance knowledge that the demonstration would occur, I believe that not only the Vice President and his wife, as individuals, but also the position of the Vice Presidency of the United States should have been saved this effrontery."

3. The complete statement by Morse is attached hereto.

STANLEY J. GROGAN
Assistant to the Director

cc: DCI

on the basis of Communist mobs, although undoubtedly, the Communists are making political hay out of what they consider to be an opportunity to demonstrate anti-American feeling.

But I think, as a colleague of mine said a few minutes ago, that a considerable amount of good will come out of this visit. One of the good things which I think will result is that it may cause the United States Senate to pay greater heed now to a reevaluation of some of our foreign policies in South America, particularly in connection with the proposed foreign-aid legislation which will soon be before us.

As a member of the Committee on Foreign Relations, I may say that there is nothing about the demonstrations which leads me to believe that we would be justified in taking so-called legislative disciplinary action concerning South America. To the contrary, it demonstrates the need of turning the other cheek in the field of foreign policy. It seems to me that we now have great educational work to do in the South American republics.

I stress again that I think we need to emphasize more aid which will build up the economic and productive power of those nations, rather than aid in the form of so-called military assistance.

Lastly, so far as I am concerned, as chairman of the subcommittee, I think we need to learn from the State Department why, apparently, our intelligence was not better, because this morning we read in the newspapers that one of our Secret Service officials informed that possibly there would be a very serious demonstration in Venezuela. If there was any basis for advance knowledge that the demonstration would occur, I believe that not only the Vice President and his wife, as individuals, but also the position of the Vice Presidency of the United States should have been saved this effrontery.

I am sure I bespeak the views of our friends in Latin America, and also the views of all of us, when I say to our Latin American friends, "You will be welcome in the United States. Any official of any Latin American country will be welcome here; and we shall welcome the opportunity to extend to you the hospitality, the courtesy, and the good neighborliness which we always extend to visiting dignitaries from Latin American countries or from any other nations. We hope you will give us that opportunity frequently, because through such opportunities we may be able to demonstrate as clearly as in any other way what we think is the essence of a good-neighbor policy."

Mr. President, I close by saying that I hope that at the committee hearing which I shall call the State Department will be able to clarify the situation a little, because—speaking now only for myself—I believe it is a sad thing that the Vice President of the United States has been put in such a position. It is particularly sad if intelligence work had indicated in advance that he might be subjected to these effronteries if he made the good-will tour, because although

good manners throughout the tour, nevertheless I have no doubt that Communist forces will make propaganda out of it.

Mr. MORSE. Mr. President, for several years I have said on the floor of the Senate, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Latin American Affairs, that we need to keep our eyes on freedom in South America, because in many parts of South America freedom is not doing well. I think the demonstrations which have occurred in connection with Vice President Nixon's visit to South America are but another indication that there is a great need for improved relations between the United States and South America.

We need to make it perfectly clear that the support we have given to dictators in Cuba, the Dominican Republic, and elsewhere in Latin America are out of line with our policies of supporting true democracy and the principles of personal liberty and freedom; we need to make it clear that support of some dictators in South America is not a true representation of our dedication to the principles of democracy and freedom. I have suggested on more than one occasion that those policies would lead us into trouble.

I agree with the Senator from Montana that the full explanation of the unfortunate affronts and demonstrations, not only to the Vice President personally, but to the Vice President as the symbol of America, cannot be explained entirely